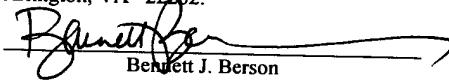




Hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Judith E. Kimble
Robert H. Blelloch

Date: September 26, 2002

Serial No.: 09/321,987

Group Art Unit: 1632

Filed: 05/28/1999

Examiner: Ram R. Shukla

For: AGENT AND METHOD FOR
MODULATION OF CELL MIGRATION

File No.: 960296.95386

AMENDMENT

Commissioner For Patents
P O Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to an Office Action mailed March 26, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-6 and 10, and add new Claims 14-16 as follows:

1. (Amended three times) A method for selecting a modulator of a gonadal cell migration activity in a nematode having a developing gonadal cell, the nematode being selected from the group consisting of *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae*, the migration activity being selected from the group consisting of elongation and expansion, the migration activity being present only when the cell is under the influence of a protein that comprises a metalloprotease domain and a thrombospondin domain, the method comprising the steps of:

treating a nematode with at least one potential modulator;

observing in the treated nematode a change in the migration activity of the cell attributable to the at least one potential modulator, wherein the change is not observed after treatment with the potential modulator of a mutant of the nematode that comprises the cell